

MODERN CARPENTRY

PART I

CARPENTER'S GEOMETRY

CHAPTER I

THE CIRCLE

While it is not absolutely necessary that, to become a good mechanic, a man must need be a good scholar or be well advanced in mathematics or geometry, yet, if a man be proficient in these sciences they will be a great help to him in aiding him to accomplish his work with greater speed and more exactness than if he did not know anything about them. This, I think, all will admit. It may be added, however, that a man, the moment he begins active operations in any of the constructional trades, commences, without knowing it, to learn the science of geometry in its rudimentary stages. He wishes to square over a board and employs a steel or other square for this purpose, and, when he scratches or pencils a line across the board, using the edge or the tongue of the square as a guide, while the edge of the blade is against the edge of the board or parallel with it, he thus solves his first geometrical problem, that is, he makes a right angle with the edge of the board. This is one step forward in the path of geometrical science.

He desires to describe a circle, say of eight inches diameter. He knows instinctively that if he opens his